

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the office action dated May 26, 2004. In view of the above-mentioned amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-4 and 30-35 are under consideration in this application. Claims 36-37 are being cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-2, 4, 31-32, and 34-35 are being amended to correct formal errors and/or to better recite or describe the features of the present invention as claimed. All the amendments to the claims are supported by the specification. Applicants hereby submit that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Formality Rejection

Claims 2, 4, 31 and 32 were objected to for some informalities. Claims 1-4 and 30-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite and the Examiner requires that the particular components recited in the claims be matched with the corresponding terms in the specification and reference numbers in the drawings. As indicated, the claims have been amended as required by the Examiner. Accordingly, the withdrawal of the outstanding informality rejection is in order, and is therefore respectfully solicited.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-4 and 30-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101, as a provisional double patenting rejection, in view of claims 1-12 of the co-pending CIP application No. 10/223,374. The Examiner contended that these claims are identical, and are not patentably distinct.

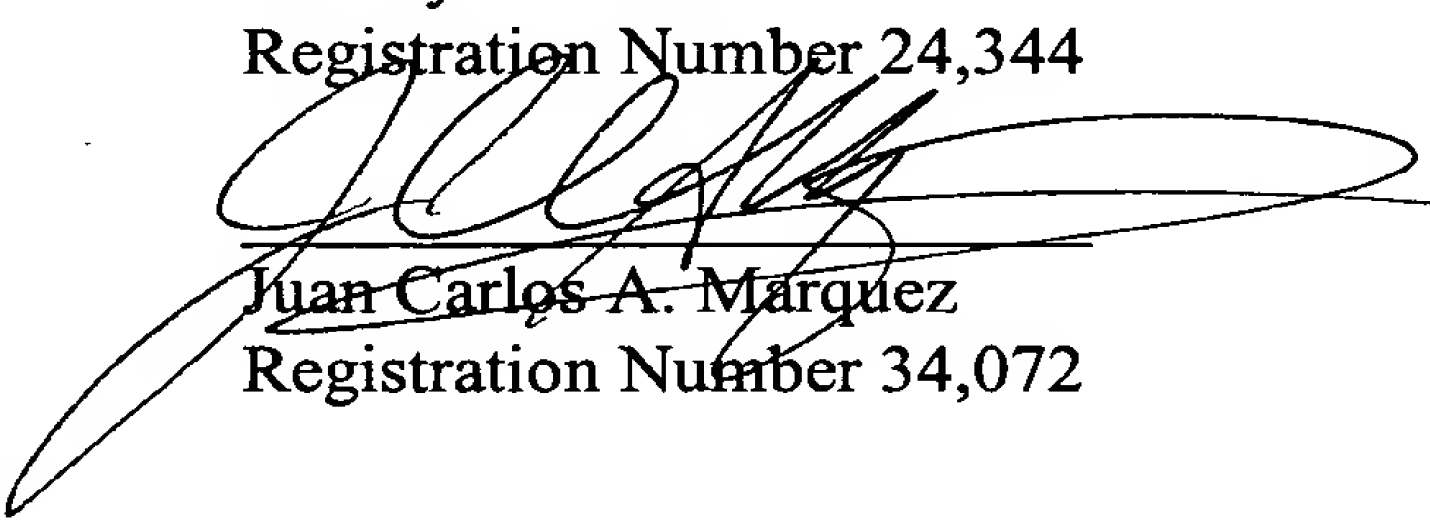
A terminal disclaimer is being submitted with the response for the CIP application on July 7, 2004 according to the Examiner's suggestion. Accordingly, the withdrawal of the outstanding double patenting rejection against this parent application is in order, and is respectfully solicited.

Conclusion

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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